WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for prefetching web pages, comprising:

determining whether an accessed web page has a set of user-preferred sub-pages from a plurality of sub-pages; and

prefetching the set of user-preferred sub-pages.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of user-preferred sub-pages is based on the user's previous visits to the web page.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein prefetching the set of user-preferred sub-pages occurs in an order dependent on a number of times the user has requested each one of the set of user-preferred sub-pages.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein determining whether an accessed web page has the set of user-preferred sub-pages includes using learned user preferences including a history of the plurality of sub-pages visited by a user.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the learned user preferences further include a depth of history that determines a number of days previously that the history is used.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the learned user preferences further include a page depth that determines how many sub-pages within the web page are considered distinct.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of user-preferred sub-pages also contains additional sub-pages and sub-links corresponding to the additional sub-pages.

8. The method of claim 1, further including generating and storing the set of user-preferred sub-pages obtained during a user's previous visits to the web page.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein the set of user-preferred sub-pages is a unique list of user-preferred sub-pages that orders the user-preferred sub-pages

depending on the frequency of a user's previous visits to each of the user-preferred sub-pages.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein prefetching is performed in an order set forth in the unique list of user-preferred sub-pages.

11. A method for using a client on a computer network to request a web page from a web server, the web page having a plurality of sub-pages, the method comprising:

enabling a prefetching technique on the client such that some of the plurality of sub-pages can be retrieved and placed in a memory cache on the client;

determining that a user has preferred sub-pages from the plurality of sub-pages based on the user's prior visits to the web page; and

using the prefetching technique to prefetch the preferred sub-pages prior to any other of the plurality of sub-pages..

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the preferred sub-pages are generated using a history of which of the plurality of sub-pages a user requested during the user's prior visits.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the preferred sub-pages are further generated using a depth of history that reflects a frequency of request by the user for each one of the plurality of sub-pages.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the preferred sub-pages are generated using a page depth that indicates how many of the plurality of sub-pages that are considered distinct.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the preferred sub-pages are a list of the preferred sub-pages placed in an order according to how often the user requested each one of the preferred sub-pages.

16. A learned preference prefetching system for using a client computer on a computer network to prefetch a web page having a plurality of sub-pages in response to a request by a user, comprising:

a prefetch module disposed on the client computer that allows the client computer to retrieve sub-pages of the web page; and

a learned preferences prefetch module in communication with the prefetch module that determines that the user has a set of preferred sub-pages from the plurality of sub-pages and uses the prefetch module to prefetch the set of preferred sub-pages.

17. The learned preference prefetching system of claim 16, wherein the set of preferred sub-pages is generated using learned user preferences that include a history of which of the plurality of sub-pages were previously requested by the user during the user's previous visits to the web page.

18. The learned preference prefetching system of claim 17, where the learned user preferences include a depth of history that determines a period of time over which the user has previously requested each one of the plurality of sub-pages.

19. The learned preference prefetching system of claim 16, wherein the set of preferred sub-pages is a unique list having a preferred prefetch order based on the frequency of the user's previous request of each of the set of preferred sub-pages.

20. The learned preference prefetching system of claim 19, wherein the learned preferences prefetch module uses the prefetch module to prefetch the set of preferred sub-pages in the preferred prefetch order.